

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action dated December 8, 2006 the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4 and 10-12 are allowed. Claims 5-9 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 9,862,328 to Morimoto et al.

Each of claims 6-9 and 13-18 either directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 5. Claim 5 has been amended to add the limitation of a reinforcing sheet, comprising a woven or non-woven fabric cloth, having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm², and in which the fiber diameter of a fiber constituting the reinforcing sheet is from 10 to 150 µm.

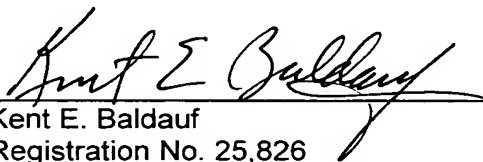
This amendment to Claim 5 is supported at least at page 28, lines 14-19, and page 29, lines 20-30, line 3 of the specification. As is noted in numbered paragraph 5 of the December 8, 2006 Office Action, this limitation is not taught by the prior art. Accordingly, independent claim 5 and dependent claims 6-9 and 13-18 are now allowable.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-18 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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